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Faculty Senate Minutes

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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate Meeting
The Trent Lott Center
November 2, 2012

Minutes

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, L. Agler, A. Beck, A. Branton, R. Carr, S. Cloud, D. Conville, D. Daves, K. Davis (A. Branton), K. Dillon, J. Ding, D. Douglas, M. Dugan (L. Flynn), M. Elasri, D. Fletcher, L. Flynn, K. Goodwin, A. Haley (D. Conville), T. Hartsell, S. Hrostowski, L. Iglesias (M. Naquin), M. Lux, D. Masterson, M. Miller, M. Naquin, L. Nored (D. Fletcher), W. Odom, S. Piland, R. Press (Kate Greene), K. Shelley (D. Tingstrom), J. Shin, C. Sirola, P. Smith (L. Agler), L. Story, D. Tingstrom, J. Wiggins (S. Piland), J. Wiggert, T. Zelner.

Absent: J. Anderson, C. Meyers, A. Sevier

Guests: B. Powell, E. Kemp (Hattiesburg American), A. Jordan (Staff Council), T. Greer, S. Rawls (LEC/ELO); K. Reidenbach, (iTech), D. Sliman (iTech), K. Zarton (GCFC)

Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.

1.0 Call to order 2:07PM

2.0 Approval of agenda Mary Lux 1st Dan Tingstrom 2nd

3.0 Approval of October Minutes Steve Cloud 1st Robin Carr 2nd

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

Senator Steve Cloud, co-chair of the United Way Campaign committee for 2012/2013, encouraged faculty to give to the United Way this year.

President Search Update: Advertisement has gone out to several higher education publications and also diversity sites. President Mary Ann Adams expressed her appreciation to Jerry Defatta for incorporating Faculty Senate's feedback to the IHL Presidential Search committee. Additional individuals were added to the USM search committee to improve representation for both campus and Hattiesburg. Senator Naquin asked that a breakdown of the committee membership would be nice to have to see who we have as representatives. Senator Flynn asked if the committee would be able to meet as a group per a concern voiced last meeting, and Mary Ann Adams stated they would be able to meet and discuss the candidates. The candidates have until December 15 to submit their applications for consideration by the committees.

President Adams discussed the Mississippi Supreme Court districts, noting that USM is the only institution of higher learning in the southern part of the state. She asked the senators to think about USM's opportunity to highlight our programs that are unique in the state, maximizing our potential to appeal to students with these special interests. Recently, four study centers have been approved by the IHL, some of which are situated in sister institutions out of our southern district but cover unique needs specific to the Gulf South.

4.2 President-Elect

Vice-President Desmond Fletcher presented a *Recommendation Regarding Selection of Athletic Venues*. Scott Piland 1st, Doug Masterson 2nd. The resolution supports selection of game venues that would be the most financially viable sites and better support funding our athletic programs. Senator Miller voiced concern about a long term strategy. D. Fletcher responded by pointing out the current state of the athletic department was financially at risk due to a losing football season, and the need for facility repairs. Vote: 30 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

4.3 Secretary-No report

4.4 Secretary Elect-No report

5.0 Remarks from Provost Denis Wiesenburg

The IHL is evaluating the funding formula and exploring other options in determining our respective annual budgets. The IHL is working with a consultant on this issue.

A library consultant is coming November 6 and 7 to review processes and services in University Library. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be meeting with the consultant on Tuesday.

Of the 7000 sections, 700 sections did not have midterm grades entered. The Provost is exploring reasons for the short fall and encouraged teaching faculty to make sure they put in their midterm grades, a measure for determining student success early enough in the semester to be able to help a student. Senator Masterson pointed out that the course drop date is well before the midterm grades due date. Can these dates be changed? Financial aid may be the reason for this. Has entering midterm grades increased student success? The Provost reported that entering midterm grades alone will not address student success needs, and he is looking into this issue. Teaching and Service Subcommittee will also assist in exploring the issue.

Online instruction guidelines are being developed by the Eagle Online Learning staff with input from faculty.

Proxy Kate Green, speaking on the behalf of the Gender Equality Committee, reported that the committee was denied salary information based on gender. She asked if the Provost if he would facilitate getting the data to study trends in the salaries for women in academia. The Provost stated that the information may be part of protected personnel information. Proxy Greene stated that the GE committee just wanted aggregate, comparative data. The Provost stated he would look at the request to see if the information can be provided.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Faculty Senate Representative as a part of the University Research Council

Faculty Senate senators have requested that the University Research Council send a memo stating that a Faculty Senate representative has been added to its membership.

6.2 Awards Committee Resolution

Senator Mary Lux presented a resolution changing the awards offered by the Faculty Senate and the process. Senate will vote on the resolution at the next meeting.

6.3 Traffic Flow Report

Traffic Flow Plan has been put on hold to examine concerns, particularly expansion of 31th Street behind LAB.

6.4 Emeritus

Some issues not addressed by the recent Emeritus policy changes made in the *Faculty Handbook* were raised: (1) Is there a time limit by which a retired faculty member can apply for emeritus status; and (2) Can you reapply if the application is denied? The Faculty Handbook Subcommittee will look at this issue.

Additionally, there is no time limit on appealing tenure if denied. Academic and Governance Subcommittee will look at this issue.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Update on Presidential Search Process **New members added to the Committee** **Advertisements placed**

7.2 Mid-term grade reporting issues

7.3 University Expectations for Online Learning and Support

There are some crossover with the recently approved Classroom Conduct Policy. The Teaching and Service and Academics and Governance Subcommittees will work with Sherri Rawls to look at the guidelines. Sherri Rawls will circulate raw feedback that she has received to date regarding the document.

7.4 Faculty concerns related to library cuts for “low use general reference resources ... as well as congressional and statistical databases, Westlaw, Aquatic Sciences, Business and Company Resource Center, 19th Century Masterfile and Ecology Abstracts” and a shift to a “pay per use” model for e-books

A list regarding resource usage and cuts was circulated to the senate listserv. Library representatives described some of the processes occurring. Please send any concerns to President Mary Ann Adams prior to the meeting with the consultant next week.

8.0 Committee Reports

10.1 Academic and Governance **Chair Chris Sirola**

No report

10.2 Constitution and Bylaws **Desmond Fletcher**

The Constitution and Bylaws have been combined and presented for review to simplify the documents. The Senate unanimously voted in favor to combine the two documents. Please send feedback to Vice President Fletcher.

10.3 FS Faculty Handbook Committee Chair Dan Tingstrom

No report. Currently reviewing a number of issues.

10.3 Elections **Co-chairs Taralynn Hartsell and Tisha Zelner**

Committee is still working on the redistribution of senators representing the colleges especially since the College of Nursing has been re-instated this summer.

10.4 Evaluation and Assessment **Chair Kyna Shelley**

No report

10.5 Research and Scholarship **Co-chairs Doug Masterson and Scott Piland**

Members met with Dr. Gordan Cannon about several issues including development of an undergraduate research center. Dr. Cannon has asked for faculty who are willing to serve on the undergraduate research steering committee. Forward any names to Doug Masterson.

10.6 Teaching and Service **Co-chairs Luis Iglesias and Marlene Naquin**

Looking into issues with Midterm grades, drop dates, and online learning. Planning on administering a survey to do a needs assessment for the committee.

10.7 University Relations **Chair Richard Conville**

A meeting has been scheduled for the USM community to attend and speak with our state legislators in south Mississippi. The legislative forum is **3:00 P.M. November 28th!! Thad Cochran 218**

10.8 University Welfare **Chair Andrew Haley**

The committee is looking at a few issues (e.g., employment assistance program, employee wellness, parental and family leave).

10.9 Gulf Coast Council **Marlene Naquin**

The Council sponsored a retreat to welcome new faculty to the Gulf Coast campus last Saturday, October 27th. In addition, Senator Naquin gave a short summary of the expected move-in date to rerun to the Long Beach campus offices after repairs are complete due to Hurricane Katrina.

9.0 Adjourn 4:35

**REMINDER: LEGISLATIVE FORUM 3:00 P.M. November 28th!! Thad Cochran
218**